SARA SKYWAVES

W5SRA

FEBRUARY 2024

President's Message

Hello February!

I hope this letter finds everyone well! As we go forward, look for more opportunities of club activities in the field.

In the January meeting the Board proposed some changes to the By-Laws to be published in this month's Newsletter and a vote at February General Meeting. There was some discussion as to some of the wording. The Board has made some changes to the wording proposed. You can find the new proposed wording enclosed in this newsletter.

The Board of Directors will propose these at the February meeting and publish it again in the March Sky-Waves and a vote for approval at the March meeting.

Tricia Lindsey, K5TIL has send an invitation for SARA members to attend Sachse's Basic CERT training class. There is a copy of the flyer in this newsletter on page 5. You can sign up at www.sachsecert.org. Becoming a part of a CERT Team is a good way to give back to your community.

Keep in mind Bob DeVance, K5CRX will be presenting at our February meeting. His topic is – Wire Antenna Survey

73,
Andy Barnes, W5KZJ

Golden microphone winners for 2023

Tony Fiorda WB8ZWI

Brandon Thomas KI5SXE

Ev Wingo KI5LEX

JOIN US ON THE AIR

ALL SARA operations and all Sachse ARES/RACES operations are being conducted on the W5SRA repeater

The Sachse Amateur Radio Association uses the W5SRA repeater in Sachse, TX:
Frequency: 440.350 MHz
Shift: +5MHz
PL tone: 110.9 (Tx & Rx)

SARA Weekly Information Net
Monday, 7:00 PM on the W5SRA Repeater

The W5SRA repeater is accessible via EchoLink and AllStarLink.
Sachse Radio Club **AllStarLink Instructions**: (Click Here)
Please use node 528831 to connect using AllStarLink

Next General Meeting

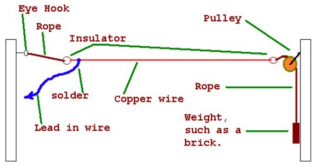
Thursday, February 8 @ 7:30 PM

North Pointe Church of Christ

7030 S State Hwy 78,

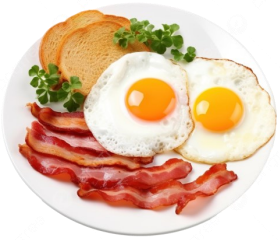
Sachse, TX 75048

Topic: Wire Antenna Survey



QSO Breakfast

Meet us each Saturday at 7:30am at **Ballard Street Cafe**, 112 N. Ballard in downtown **Wylie**. People begin showing up around 7:00 with most showing up by 7:30am.



Next Board Meeting:

February 22, 2024 via *Google Meet* at this link.

ANY MEMBER IS WELCOME TO JOIN US!!

ARRL Responds to FCC Proposals

01/11/2024

ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio® responded to the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) request for comments on removing the symbol (baud) rate restrictions that apply to data communications on the LF bands and the VHF and UHF bands below 450 MHz. The FCC also requested comments on the bandwidth limits applicable to those bands.

The FCC's action follows their 2023 decision to remove the symbol (baud) rate limits on the 160- to 10-meter amateur bands. Those limits were replaced with a 2.8 kHz bandwidth limit, a move ARRL had long advocated for.

The FCC's Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking sought comments on updating the other amateur bands on which its symbol (baud) rate limits continue to throttle faster data rates. The subject bands are the LF bands (2200 and 630 meters) and the VHF and UHF bands below 450 MHz. In its comments, ARRL strongly agreed with the FCC's proposal to remove the symbol (baud) rate limits on the remaining bands.

ARRL's comments also noted that CW operation is protected in the lower 100 kHz of the 6- and 2-meter bands and will continue to be so protected, but otherwise, all modes are permitted in the remainder of the subject VHF and UHF bands with only the data modes subject to bandwidth restrictions below 450 MHz that vary by band. The bandwidth restrictions uniquely applicable to data modes have resulted in the other modes being permitted to use many times the bandwidth of data modes in an intermixed fashion determined by those using the bands. For the data modes, however, the limits have limited experimentation with techniques already in use in other countries on amateur VHF and UHF bands.

ARRL concluded that the FCC should also remove the bandwidth limits that apply uniquely to the data modes on the subject bands, and instead, amateurs rely on voluntary band plans and local agreements, as they already do with regard to the mix of the other modes ranging from Morse code (CW) signals of 50 Hz or so (depending upon speed) to amateur television that employs signals of 6 or more MHz. ARRL also noted that the limited propagation range on the subject bands enables local cooperation that is not possible on the HF bands where propagation is such that signals can cover the globe.

The bands addressed in this rulemaking are:

135.7 – 137.8 kHz (2200-meter) and 472 – 479 kHz (630-meter) bands.

50.1 – 54 MHz (6-meter) and 144.1 – 148 MHz (2-meter) bands.

219 – 220 MHz (1.25-meter digital) bands.

222 – 225 MHz (1.25-meter) and 420 – 450 MHz (70-centimeter) bands.

Find us on Facebook!

Did you know you can keep up with events and conversations between newsletters by joining the Sachse Amateur Radio Association on Facebook? Click the Facebook link above.

SARA Weekly Information Net

This net is now held every Monday @ 7:00 PM

W5SRA Repeater:
440.350MHz
+5.0MHz
PL Tone 110.9

Sunday Public Service Net
W5SRA Repeater 440.350, Tone 110.9 @8:00 PM

UPCOMING EVENTS

Every Monday - "SARA Weekly Information Net" 7:00pm W5SRA Repeater

440.350 MHz,
Offset +5.00 Mhz,
PL tone: 110.9

February 17th and 24th- "Sachse CERT Training" Cost $25. Must be 18 yrs or older or 16 with parental consent. See full page flyer below in this newsletter for more information.

February 17th - "SKYWARN Storm Spotter Training" 9:00 A.M. Saturday, February 17th
Granville Arts Center
300 North 5th Street
Garland, TX
weather.gov/fwd/skywarnmap

March 2ND - "Irving Amateur Radio Club Annual Hamfest"

Other Events

Garland Amateur Radio Club to hold training classes in 2024

FCC license preparation classes:

Technician: 01/23-02/27/24 for 6 Tuesday nights at 6:30
General: 03/26-04/30/24 for 6 Tuesday nights at 6:30
For information contact John KF5FWK at email:
education@k5qhd.org

Future Meeting Topics

Feb 8th - "***Wire Antenna Survey***" Bob DeVance K5CRX
Mar 14th - "***Winlink Basics***" Dave Gross W6JDG
Apr 11th - ***"History of a Silent Key— Extensive QSO Card Collection"*** Dave Piekarski K5EEN

Elevated Radials

Those of you who know me know that I have been operating exclusively QRP for almost a year now. It essentially reduces your RF footprint, and the number of QSL cards that you get.

It also can reduce the cost of equipment needed to work HF. I have a 5 watt, 4 band FT8 QRP transceiver - built from a kit - that cost me $70, including shipping. It works as well as a $1500 shack radio for that purpose.

The cheapest transceiver in the world is a Pixie kit (CW only) that can be had in kit form for less than $10. That being said, a Pixie kit has extremely poor performance. Don't buy one unless your ham buddy lives across the street and wants to talk to you every day.

Antennas, Antennas, Antennas

When running QRP, it's all about antennas. The usual ham radio setup that wastes 50% of the power in losses (tuner losses... coax losses... balun losses...) is not a good strategy for QRP, where you start out with almost no power. "Too short" antennas (less than 1/4 wave) are lower gain, and with 5 measly watts, low gain is bad news.

Back when I started in radio (late 2017), I put up a wire antenna in my back yard. It starts at the top of a 10-foot PVC pole, and goes up 35 feet into a tree. The antenna works very well. I never understood why.

For the last couple of weeks, we have had bad weather in Dallas. Bone-chilling cold (12 F), and now cold rain... so I have been stuck indoors. With nothing to do, I turned to EZNEC for amusement. I asked EZNEC to explain to me how my backyard wire works.

EZNEC failed to do that, but after a couple of days, I determined that it wasn't EZNEC that was the problem. It was me. Surprise, surprise. I hadn't put some very important parasitic elements into EZNEC, so it didn't model them. And what were those elements?

My house wiring.

RF in the Shack

When the antenna first went up in August of 2018, I got RF in the shack. So, I installed a "line isolator" (coax inductor). That got rid of it. So, I was warned early on that RF wanted my feedline. But what I didn't understand is, it also wanted my house wiring.

In my house, the wiring goes over the ceiling joists. The wire has three conductors - two AC lines and a ground. All the wires terminate at the breaker box, which has a ground wire that goes to the "facility ground" - a copper ground rod.

I put my shack on the other side of the wall from that ground rod, and my radio ground goes through the wall and directly connects to it.

Raining down on the house

What is happening is... the RF from my vertical antenna (behind the house) is raining down on the ground wires in the plastic insulated wiring in my attic. The RF goes to the breaker box, and then to the ground rod... which is also the ground side of the radio. In essence, my house is an elevated ground plane. So, how do elevated ground planes work?

Very well, it seems.

Ground wires on the surface (or just below the surface) of the soil act as RF returns, but they don't radiate. Elevated ground wires radiate. They radiate in the horizontal plane. My antenna is a vertical wire. I thought that it radiated in the vertical plane. It does. But because my house wiring is an elevated ground plane... the antenna system also radiates in the horizontal plane.

Like a horizontal dipole that is less than 1/2 wavelength above the earth... the radiation pattern of my house wiring is a dinner roll pattern - straight up. NVIS. In other words, if you have an elevated vertical antenna with an elevated ground plane... you get NVIS for free.

Dual Polarity Antennas

When the antenna is vertical, and the ground plane is a horizontal, elevated wire... you have a dual polarity antenna. What does that do?

When a signal goes past the horizon to the ionosphere, two things happen. One is, the Earth's magnetic field "twists" the signal, so it's not in the same plane that it started out in. Second, when it hits the ionosphere, it becomes "elliptically polarized".

Theoretically, a horizontal antenna hit with a vertically polarized signal will receive zero - nothing. In practice, that isn't true due to ground reflections... but a lot of "fading" in the HF world is due to polarity matching issues. If your antenna is both horizontally and vertically polarized, some of that goes away. Your "apparent" antenna gain is up +3 dB when confronted by a signal with unknown (average 45 degrees off axis) polarity.

Now what?

I didn't design my antenna to rain RF down on my house. I put it behind the house just so this wouldn't happen. But I elevated the antenna 10 feet to keep men and beasts away from it. And then, I forgot about all the wiring in my attic.

I'm not tearing down the house, and I still don't want the vertical antenna on the ground. So, what is, is. What I can do is run QRP. That lessens the field strength everywhere.

Lessons Learned

* Number one, RF goes where it wants to, not where you tell it to go.
* Number two, EZNEC only calculates based on the elements you put into it.
* Number three, I accidentally ended up with a dual polarized antenna in my backyard, which works great.

Not a QRP purist...

Last week, I heard a CW special event station in Indonesia, commemorating Marconi. Tried to get back to them with 5 watts. Failed. I decided to cheat. I increased the power to 10 watts. Bingo!

10,000 miles with 10 watts... equals 1,000 miles per watt. Not bad for a wire in the back yard.

My record is 700 miles with half a watt, using the same antenna. That antenna is, as I have just explained... an accident.

One Thing to Know

One of my friends (sadly, SK) spent his career designing antennas for a living. I asked him, "If there is one thing about antennas that I should know, what is it?" He said...

"Don't tell the antenna that it can't do what it does."

You can't model everything. In the end, you model everything that you can. The better the model, the more likely that what you build from it will work. That's Engineering 101.

At some point, you must fish or cut bait. You build something. Then you just hope that it works. Sometimes you get lucky.

I've spent the last 5 years trying to psychoanalyze RF. In the end, RF psychoanalyzed me.

- Jim Eatman KG5WAW

SARA Club Officers for 2023-2024

Current officers for the Sachse Amateur Radio Association, per the election held at the September 2023 General Meeting.

President	Andy Barnes	W5KZJ
Vice President	Mike Crow	W5MJC
Secretary	Kathy Wingo	KI5LEY
Treasurer	Linda Smyder	K5LCS
Public Information Officer	Jeff Feldman	KI5DDX
Director at Large	John Smyder	W5JWS
Newsletter Editor	Ev Wingo	KI5LEX

JOIN THE ARRL

As an ARRL Affiliated Club, SARA receives a commission for every **new** ARRL membership and **renewal** we submit to ARRL Headquarters and get to retain a portion of the dues for each regular membership submitted.

Clubs retain **$15 for each new membership** OR lapsed membership (of two years or more). A NEW MEMBER is defined as any individual who has never been a member of ARRL or any individual who has not retained a membership for two or more calendar years prior to the application submission.

Clubs retain **$5 for each renewal**. A RENEWING MEMBER can renew at anytime, even before their current membership term expires.

You can download the ARRL Affiliated Club Membership form here.

Once downloaded, complete the form and get it to the club Treasurer along with a check made out to 'Sachse Amateur Radio Association' and we will submit your ARRL membership application/renewal to ARRL Headquarters. (**NOTE**: ARRL Headquarters is working on getting an on-line version working so that you can go directly to them and the ARRL will send the club a check for any new or renewed memberships.)

Ham Radio Blog on Reddit

Reddit is a social news aggregation, content rating, and forum social network. Registered users, commonly referred to as "Redditors", submit content to the site such as links, text posts, images, and videos, which are then voted up or down by other members. Posts are organized by subject into user-created boards called "communities" or "subreddits". Submissions with more upvotes appear towards the top of their subreddit and, if they receive enough upvotes, ultimately on the site's front page. There are several Ham Radio communities on Reddit. Here are a few (links included):

r/HamRadio 63k members. The obvious one

r/MobileRigs 250 members Mobile & Handheld

r/amateurradio 136k members. "Reddits's own radio club".

r/HamFest 6.7k members. Buy/Sell/Trade

r/HamRadioBeginner 741 members. For those new to Ham Radio

r/Anytone 1.3k members Anytone radio specific

r/HamRadioMemes 1.4k members. Good for a laugh.

r/Baofeng 28l members. Baofeng radio specific

r/HamRadioTesting 450 members. Testing for your license

r/lowsodiumradio 2.9k members. No haters

r/HamRadioHomeBrew 247 members. Radio-related harsware projects

r/EmComm. 2.3k members Emergency Comms

r/RTLSDR 97k members. Geared toward software defined radio topics

Looking to learn more things involving amateur radio with which you can get involved?

Discover the ARRL Learning Center

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

Working on a project that you think the club members would be interested in? Read a good HAM related article somewhere? Send articles to SARA Newsletter Editor: newslettereditor@sachseradio.org

ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

SARA vice-president Mike Crow, W5MJC heads up the SARA Activities Committee. Anyone who is willing to help or has ideas may contact Mike at: vicepresident@sachseradio.org

SARA BRANDED GEAR

We now have two suppliers for SARA gear. Both of these companies have our logo on file.

HamThreads will do hats, shirts, jackets and vests. They can do single items. HamThreads is in Saginaw.
https://www.hamthreads.com

SARA NAME BADGES

If you need a SARA name badge please go to:
https://namebadge.com/sachse

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Lonnie Webb KG5WHQ

Lonnie Webb entered the software engineering field in the nineties working for companies like IBM, Coca-Cola, and Capital One. Finding architectural problems in the network libraries of OS/2, latter generations known as Warp and Klingon, revealed some real needs for people looking up from the grind and making a difference. That calling led to a connection to the real world communication with radio.

Okay, it was really the Emergency TV show back in the seventies that did that.

Regardless, with retirement slowly sneaking up he gave himself over to amateur radio attaining KG5WHQ as a tech call sign 11/30/2017 after taking Doug Priebe's 1-day class and test.

That day an ICOM all mode 7100 was purchased. Eventually an extra license was attained which led to becoming a volunteer examiner and participation in local CERT and ARES. Making every mistake in a month matured him into the aging Ham that annoys most bystanders on mobile.

This progressed into SSB and FT-8 radio adventures up a mountain several times before SOTA was YouTube cool. As pointed out by wifey, SOTA is not cool. So she was dragged kicking and screaming into the hobby. SOTA is now cool.

Increasingly dedicated to QRP, Lonnie has built several kit radios including uBitx, Cricket, and his daily driver DL2MAN's truSDX. His arsenal consists of ID-51a, Wouxon, Quansheng K5, and a couple of Yaesu radios.

Lonnie has been blessed to occasionally work with local groups like the Boy Scouts. The biggest ham radio challenge remains getting a child to test for their ticket. Fear not, CW is by no means mastered.

The future in retirement has to do with writing and illustrating stories for others to read. It can be assumed that books and comics he is attached to will honor the band plan.

Picture from the SARA Weekly QSO Breakfast—1/20/2024

Ballard Street Café Wylie, TX

The City of SACHSE

Sachse CERT COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

Volunteers Wanted: Sachse CERT has something for you!

AM I QUALIFIED?

- Do you want to make a difference in your community?
- Do you enjoy helping others?
- Do you have some time to spare?

If yes, then this is for you!

A MESSAGE FROM FIRE CHIEF, MARTY WADE

"Sachse Fire-Rescue (SFR) has enjoyed our partnership with Sachse CERT for many years. This dedicated team is always willing to lend a helping hand when needed. When a tornado struck the eastern portion of Sachse, CERT responded in full force to help. They conducted damage assessments, and spent two days helping citizens clean up from the storm. I don't know what we would do without them."

OVERVIEW

You will first attend the two-day G-317-CERT course. Once completed, you are eligible to join the team. This team is ready to respond to a disaster in and around the region.

You will provide support to Sachse Fire-Rescue during structure fires and City events.

DISASTER SUPPORT

After you and your family are secure and safe, you may be called upon to help during a disaster and assigned duties based on your knowledge, skills and abilities.

Depending on your skill-set, you may be assigned to a hazard zone, wide area searches, clerical tasks, or other areas that may need extra support.

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

There are various city events that CERT has the opportunity to assist with including Fallfest, Pumpkin Prowl, and Pancakes with Santa.

NEXT TRAINING CLASSES:

February 17th & 24th, 2024
Both are required for certification.
Cost: $25
Must be 18 years of age or older, or 16 with parental consent and participation.

CERT Class Sign-up!

APPLICATOIN DEADLINE: February 11th, 2024

Visit sachsecert.org and apply today!
We look forward to seeing you!

Proposed changes to the SARA By-laws.

Discussion was held during the January general meeting about some proposed changes to the SARA By-laws. The proposed changes are below, with the new / added text presented in red*, the* ~~deleted test in red strikeout font~~*. Comments not a part of the bylaws are shown in* (ALL CAPS)*. These changes will be discussed again in the February, referencing the proposed new text shown as follows:*

Article III Officers

3.01 Positions. Elected officers of the Sachse Amateur Radio Association shall consist of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Public Information Officer, Newsletter Editor, and Director-At-Large. These officers shall constitute the Board of Directors and shall carry out all the duties of officers and directors as defined in the Bylaws and by the Articles of Incorporation.

A. President. The President shall preside at all meetings of this club, and conduct the same according to the rules adopted. The President shall enforce due observance of this Constitution and By-Laws, decide all questions of order, sign all official documents that are adopted by the club, and none other, and perform all other customary duties pertaining to the office of President including the establishment of all committees. The President shall serve as an ex officio member of all committees. The President may appoint a Parliamentarian. The President shall be a voting member on all business of the Board of Directors.

B. Vice-President. The Vice-President shall assume all the duties of the President in the absence of the latter. The Vice-President shall be the chairperson of the Activities Committee and shall be a member of the Business Committee. In the event of a vacancy in the office of President, the Vice-President will assume that office. The Vice-President shall be a voting member on all business of the Board of Directors.

C. Secretary. The Secretary shall keep a record of the proceedings of all meetings including meetings of the Business Committee, keep a roll of membership, carry on all correspondence, and read communications at each meeting. It shall be the duty of the Secretary to keep the Constitution and By-Laws of the club and have the same with him or her at every meeting. The Secretary shall permit the same to be consulted by members upon request. Within three months of assuming office, the Secretary shall furnish a copy of the constitution to each member. The Secretary will also be a member of the Business Committee. The Secretary shall be a voting member on all business of the Board of Directors.

D. Treasurer. The Treasurer shall receive and receipt all monies paid to the club and keep an accurate account of all monies received and expended. The Treasurer shall pay no bills without proper authorization by the club or its officers constituting a Business Committee. At the end of each quarter, the Treasurer shall submit an itemized statement of disbursement and receipts. The Treasurer will be responsible for timely filing of all documents required by the state and federal governments and will document this to the board of directors. The Treasurer will be a member of the Business Committee. The Treasurer shall make available to the membership the finances of the club on an annual basis, to be presented at the September Meeting. The Treasurer will file the required financial reports with the Texas Comptroller and with the Internal Revenue Service annually by the due date for such documents and will report this action to the organization. The Treasurer, and at least one other officer of the club, will have a review of the previous year's account statements on the month following annual elections. The Treasurer shall be a voting member on all business of the Board of Directors.

E. Public Information Officer. The Public Information Officer shall be responsible for external promotion of the club to the local community. He/She maintains the club "website" with upcoming ham radio-related events and opportunities to demonstrate amateur radio to the general public at special events. The Public Information Officer would also be responsible for the club social media accounts as an Administrator, and would be responsible in getting Network Control Stations for weekly nets. The Public Information Officer shall be a voting member on all business of the Board of Directors.

F. Newsletter Editor. The Newsletter Editor shall be responsible for the publishing of SARA newsletter. He/She is required to abide by these bylaws governing publication of the newsletter. The Newsletter Editor shall be a voting member on all business of the Board of Directors.

G. Director at Large. The Director at Large is elected by the general membership to serve on the Board of Directors. This position provides the tie-breaker vote and represents the general membership of the club to the Board of Directors.

2.03 Member Type. Membership privileges and dues are as follows: ***(PARAGRAPH g ADDED)***

g. All first-time licensees that test with Laurel be granted a full membership for the remainder of the current membership year at no charge.

Article IV Meeting Procedures

• 6.01 Meetings. Regular meetings shall be held each month at such a place, as officers shall order. The President may call special meetings. ~~Written notices shall be sent twenty five days before special meetings concerning the business to be transacted.~~ Written notice shall be sent a minimum of 72 hours before the special meeting concerning the business to be transacted. Only such business as designated shall be transacted at special meetings.

Sachse Amateur Radio Association
General Meeting Minutes
January 11, 2024

Start time: 7:30 p.m.
Location: North Pointe Church
Facilitator: President Andy Barnes W5KZJ
Everyone stood and joined in to say The Pledge of Allegiance.
Members and guests introduced themselves with names and call sign.

Attendees:

Andy Barnes W5KZJ
Jeff Feldman KI5DDX
Doug Priebe AG5HB
Brandon Thomas KI5SXE
Kathy Wingo KI5LEY
Aria Stucki
Matt Jamison KI5PGL
Rusty Cain KG5WFM
Dave Gross W6JDG
Linda Smyder K5LCS
Lonnie Webb KG5WHQ
Johnnie Young KG5CQO
Tom Kihm KJ6PST
Doug Priebe AG5HB
Mike Crow W5MJC
Mike Haliburton KJ5BLP
Jim Szot N5JS
Ev Wingo KI5LEX
David Morris
Bree Kihm

New members Amado Pereira KJ5DGS, Chris VanAllen K5CVA, Brian Huddleston AD5HC, Mike Haliburton KJ5BLP and Sid Gibson K5DKW were recognized.

Presentation:

SARA wishes to express their gratitude to Tom Kihm KJ6PST for his presentation on "Is Transmission Line (TL) Impedance Real" and "Where did the Power Go".

Everyone took a five-minute break.

Business Meeting:

President's Report – Andy Barnes W5KZJ

The next Board Meeting will be held on Thursday January 25th 7 p.m. via Google Meet. There is a link in SARA Skywaves, allare welcome. The next General Meeting will be on Thursday February 8th at 7:30 p.m. at North Point Church.

Currently the member count for the membership year (as of 01/01/2024) is 45 members (44 licensed and 2 honorary). 35 membersare currently ARRL members (80%).

Upcoming General Meeting Subject Plans:

- February – Bob DeVance K5CRX – Wire Antenna Survey
- March – Dave Gross W6JDG – Winlink Basics
- April – Dave Piekarski K5EEN – will do a History of Silent Key

Future General Meeting Topics:

Ideas for upcoming meetings
Please help with subject matter

Vice President's Report – Mike Crow W5MJC

Activities:

- Tower raising party at John and Linda's QTH, date to be determined.
- POTA Activation, Saturday, January 27th 9:00 a.m. until ?? Spring Creek Forest Preserve, 1770 Holford Rd., Garland.

Sachse Amateur Radio Association
General Meeting Minutes
January 11, 2024

Review Previous Meeting Minutes – Kathy Wingo KI5LEY

The minutes for November 2023 were in the newsletter and on the website.

MOTION: Jim Szot N5JS made a Motion to approve the November minutes.
Ev Wingo KI5LEX seconded the Motion.

Discussion, none.
Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer Report – Linda Smyder W5LCS

(Financial information is available upon request. Any member may email treasurer@sachseradio.org to request the information)

Public Information Officer's Report - Jeff Feldman KI5DDX

- Saturday QSO Breakfast @ Ballard Street Café @ 7:30 a.m.
- Next Laurel VE Session January 20th @ North Pointe Church has been cancelled.
- Cowtown Hamfest January 19-20th Forest Hill, TX.
- Collin Country SkyWarn January 20th 8:00 to 12:00 more info later in the meeting.
- Garland Amateur Radio Club to hold classes in 2024
  - Technician 1/23/24 to 2/27/24 for 6 Tuesday nights at 6:30
  - General 3/26/24 to 4/30/24 for 6 Tuesday nights at 6:30
  - For more information contact John KF5FWK @ education@K5qhd.org

SARA Information Net

The SARA Information Net is held on Monday, at 7:00 p.m. Weekly Information Net Control:

January 15th	Mike Crow W5MJC
January 22nd	Ev Wingo KI5LEX
January 29th	Mike Crow W5MJC
February 5th	Ev Wingo KI5LEX
February 12th	Mike Crow W5MJC
February 19th	Kathy Wingo KI5LEY
February 26th	Mike Crow W5MJC

Newsletter Editor's Report - Ev Wingo KI5LEX

The December newsletter has been posted to the website and emailed to membership (distribution 144).

Submissions for the newsletter are due by the 25th of each month. The goal is to have the newsletter published on the 1st of each month.

Article Ideas:

Projects that you are working on or have completed,
Events and activities related to amateur radio,
Articles you have read in other publications
Member Spotlight
Please submit about 250-300 words.

Remember, our distribution is beyond our membership and our content could encourage other people to come get involved!!

Send pictures and articles to newslettereditor@sachseradio.org

Sachse Amateur Radio Association
General Meeting Minutes
January 11, 2024

Business Cards and Brochures:

500 business cards
250 brochures

Subtotal	$222.98
Savings (SAVEBIG)	($33.45)
Shipping	???
Tax	$15.63
Total	$205.16

The BoD is asking for a total amount not to exceed $250.00

MOTION: Mike Crow W5MJC made a Motion to approve the purchase of business cards and brochures not to exceed $250 and add QR Code to cards and brochures.
Dave Gross W6JDG seconded the Motion.
Discussion, none.
Motion carried unanimously.

Club Activities:

It has been suggested that the club contact the schools in Sachse and Collin College to develop school clubs as well as generate interest in amateur radio. Volunteers are needed to serve on a committee to explore this project. Jeff Feldman KI5DDX has volunteered to help with this in the near future. Are there any others at this time?
Ev Wingo KI5LEX stated that he would contact the Collin College Farmersville Campus
Andy Barnes W5KZJ stated that he would be involved as well.

New Business:

Changes to By-Laws

Article III Officers

- A through F add: Shall be a voting member on all business of the Board of Directors.

Article II Membership

- All new licensees that test with Laurel be granted membership for the remainder of the current fiscal year at no charge.

Change to read "All first time Technicians that test…..remainder of the membership year at no charge."

Article IV Meeting Procedures

- 6.01 Meetings. Regular meetings shall be held each month at such a place, as officers shall order. The President may call special meetings. ***Written notices shall be sent twenty-five days before special meetings concerning the business to be transacted.*** Only such business as designated shall be transacted at special meetings.
    - * What if the reason for the special meeting is more immediate?
    - # Proposed change: ***Written notice shall be 72 hours before the special meeting..***

Change the wording to "give a minimum of 72 hours notice".

The exact wording of the changes will be included in the information for the members . This will be placed in the February newsletter (see page 6 in this newsletter), announced on the net and brought to members at the next meeting. This item will be voted on at the next general meeting.

Sachse Amateur Radio Association
General Meeting Minutes
January 11, 2024

SkyWarn Training:

2024 Collin County in-person SkyWarn Training will be held on Saturday, January 20, 2024 at the Stockwell Center, 6301 Chapel Hill Blvd., Plano, TX 75093. Overflow parking at Willow Bend Mall. NO PARKING at the orthodontics next door.

Schedule:
8:00 check-in registration
8:30 program begins/welcome
8:40 SkyWarn Basics, National Weather Service
9:45 break
10:00 SkyWarn Basics resumes, National Weather Service

Other Business:

Johnnie Young KG5CQO stated that she did not agree with placing the club's finances in the minutes, newsletter, and website for anyone outside of the club to see. She feels that it opens the club to scammers. In the past the financial report was a separate document that was not posted outside the club.
Andy Barnes W5KZJ said that it was started to be completely transparent in all the club does.
Ev Wingo KI5LEX said that most of the members were not going to fall for scams.
It was felt that the membership should have a vote on this.

MOTION: Johnnie Young KG5CQO made a motion not to include the financial information in the minutes or newsletters. Motion died due to the lack of a second.

MOTION: Linda Smyder K5LCS made a motion to table the financial information and bring it back next month for discussion.
Jim Szot N5JS seconded the motion.
Motion carried with Ev Wingo KI5LEX being opposed.

Adjournment:

MOTION: Mike Crow W5MJC made a Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:16 p.m.
Jim Szot N5JS seconded the motion.
Motion carried unanimously.

Respectively Submitted by
Kathy Wingo
KI5LEY

SARA Skywaves

Is published each month for the purpose of informing Sachse Amateur Radio Association members of current events and issues of interest to amateur radio operators. Articles and suggestions are always welcome. Articles that appear in this publication may be reproduced provided credit is given to ***SARA Skywaves*** and to the original source.
SARA is a Texas Non-Profit 501(c)3 corporation based in Sachse, TX.

SARA Newsletter Editor
P.O. Box 1764
Wylie, TX 75048-1764

Sachse Amateur Radio Association
Board Meeting Minutes
January 25, 2024

Start time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: Google Meet

Facilitator: Andy Barnes W5KZJ, President

The invocation was offered by Andy Barnes W5KZJ, President.

President Andy Barnes W5KZJ thanked everyone for attending.

Attendees:

Andy Barnes – W5KZJ
John Smyder – W5JWS
Mike Crow – W5MJC
Ev Wingo – KI5LEX
Linda Smyder – K5LCS
Kathy Wingo – KI5LEY

Following is the suggested wording of proposed By-Law changes:

Article III Officers

3.01 Positions. Elected officers of the Sachse Amateur Radio Association shall consist of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Public Information Officer, Newsletter Editor, and Director-At-Large. These officers shall constitute the Board of Directors and shall carry out all the duties of officers and directors as defined in the Bylaws and by the Articles of Incorporation.

A. President. The President shall preside at all meetings of this club and conduct the same according to the rules adopted. The President shall enforce due observance of this Constitution and By-Laws, decide all questions of order, sign all official documents that are adopted by the club, and none other, and perform all other customary duties pertaining to the office of President including the establishment of all committees. The President shall serve as an ex officio member of all committees. The President may appoint a Parliamentarian. The President shall be a voting member on all business of the Board of Directors.

B. Vice-President. The Vice-President shall assume all the duties of the President in the absence of the latter. The Vice-President shall be the chairperson of the Activities Committee and shall be a member of the Business Committee. In the event of a vacancy in the office of President, the Vice-President will assume that office. The Vice-President shall be a voting member on all business of the Board of Directors.

C. Secretary. The Secretary shall keep a record of the proceedings of all meetings including meetings of the Business Committee, keep a roll of membership, carry on all correspondence and read communications at each meeting. It shall be the duty of the Secretary to keep the Constitution and By-Laws of the club and have the same with him or her at every meeting. The Secretary shall permit the same to be consulted by members upon request. Within three months of assuming office, the Secretary shall furnish a copy of the constitution to each member. The Secretary will also be a member of the Business Committee. The Secretary shall be a voting member on all business of the Board of Directors.

D. Treasurer. The Treasurer shall receive and receipt all monies paid to the club and keep an accurate account of all monies received and expended. The Treasurer shall pay no bills without proper authorization by the club or its officers constituting a Business Committee. At the end of each quarter, the Treasurer shall submit an itemized statement of disbursement and receipts. The Treasurer will be responsible for timely filing of all documents required by the state and federal governments and will document this to the board of directors. The Treasurer will be a member of the Business Committee. The Treasurer shall make available to the membership the finances of the club on an annual basis, to be presented at the September Meeting. The Treasurer will file the required financial reports with the Texas Comptroller and with the Internal Revenue Service annually by the due date for such documents and will report this action to the organization. The Treasurer, and at least one other officer of the club, will have a review of the previous year's account statements on the month following annual elections. The Treasurer shall be a voting member on all business of the Board of Directors.

Sachse Amateur Radio Association
Board Meeting Minutes
January 25, 2024

E. Public Information Officer. The Public Information Officer shall be responsible for external promotion of the club to the local community. He/She maintains the club "website" with upcoming ham radio-related events and opportunities to demonstrate amateur radio to the general public at special events. The Public Information Officer would also be responsible for the club social media accounts as an Administrator, and would be responsible in getting Network Control Stations for weekly nets. The Public Information Officer shall be a voting member on all business of the Board of Directors.

F. Newsletter Editor. The Newsletter Editor shall be responsible for the publishing of SARA newsletter. He/She is required to abide by these bylaws governing publication of the newsletter. The Newsletter Editor shall be a voting member on all business of the Board of Directors.

G. Director at Large. The Director at Large is elected by the general membership to serve on the board of directors. This position provides the tie-breaker vote and represents the general membership of the club to the Board of Directors.

2.03 Member Type. Membership privileges and dues are as follows:

g. All first-time licensees that test with Laurel be granted a full membership for the remainder of the current membership year at no charge.

There was some discussion to align the fiscal year with the membership year. Membership year is September to August. The fiscal year is currently January to December.

Article IV Meeting Procedures

• 6.01 Meetings. Regular meetings shall be held each month at such a place, as officers shall order. The President may call special meetings. ~~Written notices shall be sent twenty-five days before special meetings concerning the business to be transacted.~~ Written notice shall be sent a minimum of 72 hours before the special meeting concerning the business to be transacted. Only such business as designated shall be transacted at special meetings.

The proposed changes to the by-laws will be placed in the upcoming newsletter.

- Possible to put off vote for By-Law changes till March
  The Board of Directors agrees to postpone the vote of the membership for the by-law changes until March. This allows member to study the changes.
- Financials published in Minutes from General Meeting
  Financials will no longer be published in the minutes or newsletters. Financials will be made available upon request from the Treasurer.
- ARRL Field Day
  *** Time to start planning ***
  The ARRL Field Day is the last weekend of June. It was suggested to get a couple people to assist the Vice-President in the planning and next year appoint someone to take on this project.
- Upcoming General Meeting presentation
  February – Bob DeVance, K5CRX – Wire Antenna Survey
  March – Dave Gross, W6JDG – WinLink Basics
  April – Dave Piekarski – QSL History of Raymond Stone, W5RBO
- Tower raising Party John and Linda's QTH
  The tower needs to be moved down on the base. John wishes to participate but would like to hold off for awhile until his health is better.
- SkyWarn Class update
  The National Weather Service has opened a in person training class in Garland
  February 17th 9:00 AM Granville Arts Center 300 N 5th St

Adjourn

Linda Smyder K5LCS made the motion to adjourn the meeting adjourned at 7:47. Mike Crow W5MJC seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Weekly Information Net Control Station Script

This net control script is a ***SUGGESTED*** script for the NCS to use to conduct the weekly net. NCS should feel free modify this script as needed to encourage maximum participation by all net participants.

(NCS Reads the text in black. Instructions to NCS are in (red).)

(A list of potential questions to ask the net attendees can be found here.)

(Preamble)

Good evening all Radio Amateurs and welcome. This is (Your Call), my name is (Your Name), and I will be your Net Control Station for this session of Ham Radio in Sachse Weekly Information Net. This net meets every Monday night at 7:00 PM local time, on the W5SRA repeater, frequency 440.350, with an offset of +5, and using a PL tone of 110.9, for the purpose of discussing topics of interest to SARA members and others. (pause) This is a Directed Net. Please do not transmit unless directed to do so by Net Control. If the repeater should go down, everyone should switch to the Sachse emergency simplex frequency 146.400.

Also, if at any time, you have an emergency that is an imminent threat to life or property, break in by saying *"Priority", "Emergency", or "Break Break"* followed by your call sign, and the net will recognize your station and will stand by.

(Pause)
(A reminder—Net Control Should ID about every 10 minutes.)

(Check-Ins)
As we start check-ins this evening, we will break it down into a couple of categories.

1. Portable, mobile and short time check-ins.
2. General Check-ins

We will initially stand-by for portable, mobile and short time check-ins. Please, come now with your phonetic call sign, followed by your name.

(Recognize short time, portable and mobile check-ins individually.)
(Go through the list and allow each station to make any comments that they might have.)
(ASK for any additional check-ins.)

We will now standby for general check-ins. Please, check in now with your phonetic call sign, followed by your name.

(Go through the list and allow each station to make any comments that they might have. Then ask for more check-ins – this might need to be done 2 or 3 or more times – until there are no more check-ins.)
(Make sure you give your own call-sign regularly and allow others to ID appropriately as well.)
(ASK for any additional check-ins.)

(Club Announcements)

We will start off with club announcements from club officers. Any club officer on the net with an announcement, please give us your call sign.

(Aways make certain the weekly QSO eyeball breakfast is announced)

SARA meets for breakfast every Saturday morning at 7:30AM at Ballard Street Cafe, 112 N. Ballard St. in downtown Wylie. People begin showing up around 7 with most showing up by 7:30AM.

(General Announcements)

At this time, we will take stations with announcements of interest to the amateur radio community in general.

(When Ham Operators check-in initially, they may tell you if they have an announcement for later in the Net. Make note of those who have announcements and recognize them first.)

(TECH CORNER and SWAP NET)

Is there anyone who would like to ask a technical question, or share information on something they would like to buy or sell?Remember no haggling over price. Please come now with your call sign.

(Wrap-Up)

This is (your name and call). We wish to thank all who participated in the net this evening. This net will meet again next Monday night at 7:00 PM local time on the W5SRA Repeater. The Sachse Amateur Radio Association meets the second Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM at North Point Church of Christ, 7030 Hwy 78, Sachse , TX. The Sachse Amateur Radio Association Board of Directors meets the fourth Thursday at 7:00 PM on Google Meet. A link for this meeting is in the club calendar.

(Late Check-Ins)

Before we end this Net, I would like to take late check-ins. If there are any late check-ins, please give your call sign and name slowly and clearly.

(Write down and read back each call sign).

(Close the net)

This concludes the "Ham Radio in Sachse " Weekly Information Net. If you would like more information about the Sachse Amateur Radio Association, please visit our web site at www.sachseradio.org. This is *(name and call sign)* and we now return the W5SRA repeater to its normal use. Hope to hear from you next week.